

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical retractor comprising:
a laterally extending rack having a proximal and distal portion;
a first arm connected to the rack at a first location and extending longitudinally from the first location, said first arm having a first segment, a middle hinged segment, and a third segment, said middle hinged segment connected intermediate to the first segment at first pivot extending along a first axis and third segment at second pivot extending along a second axis, said first and second axes extending parallel to the rack;
a moveable second arm having a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack, said second arm extending longitudinally from the housing; said housing having an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and the at least temporary fixation of the housing at the desired location; and
wherein said middle segment of said first arm extends both longitudinally and laterally toward the second arm thereby laterally displacing the third segment relative to the first segment toward the second arm, wherein the middle hinged segment and the third segment are capable of rotating about their respective axes while the third segment remains laterally offset from the middle hinged segment, and wherein the second pivot is laterally displaced relative to the first pivot closer to the second arm.
2. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein said second arm further comprises a first segment, a middle hinged segment, and a third segment, said middle hinged segment connected to the first and third segments.
3. (Previously Presented) The surgical retractor of claim 2 wherein the middle hinged segment of the second arm is connected at a first pivot to the first segment and at a second pivot to the third segment, said first and second pivots located along a third and a fourth axis respectively, said third and fourth axes parallel to the rack, and said middle segment extends both

laterally by a lateral displacement and longitudinally toward the first arm laterally displacing the third segment by the lateral displacement relative to the first segment toward the first arm, and the second pivot is laterally displaced by the lateral displacement relative to the first pivot closer to the first arm.

4. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 3 wherein a first angle of the middle hinged segment relative to the first segment of the first arm is substantially equal to a second angle of the middle hinged segment relative to the first segment of the second arm.

5. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 3 wherein a third angle of the middle hinged segment relative to the third segment of the first arm is substantially equal to a fourth angle of the middle hinged segment relative to the first segment of the second arm.

6. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the first segments of the first and second arms are substantially parallel.

7. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the third segments of the first and second arms are substantially parallel.

8. (Currently Amended) A surgical retractor comprising:
a laterally extending rack having a proximal and distal portion;
a first longitudinally extending arm connected to the rack at a first location and extending longitudinally from the first location to an end;

a moveable second longitudinally extending arm having a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack, said second arm extending longitudinally from the housing to an end; said housing have an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and at least temporary fixating the housing at the desired location, said second arm having a first segment, a middle hinged segment, and a third segment, said middle hinged segment connected to the first segment at a first pivot located along a first axis and at a second pivot located along a second axis to third segment, wherein said first and second axes are parallel to the rack in a first position; ~~and~~ wherein when in the first position~~[[:]]~~ said middle segment of said second arm extends laterally by a lateral displacement and longitudinally toward the first arm; and the third segment of the second arm is laterally displaced toward the first arm relative to the first segment of the second arm by the middle segment, and the second pivot is laterally displaced by the lateral displacement toward the first arm relative to the first

pivot, and wherein the middle hinged segment and the third segment are capable of rotating about their respective axes while the third segment remains laterally offset from the middle hinged segment.

9. (Previously Presented) The surgical retractor of claim 8 wherein the end of the first arm extends longitudinally from the rack and is rotatable about a longitudinal axis relative to the rack.

10. (Previously Presented) The surgical retractor of claim 8 wherein the end of the second arm extends longitudinally from the rack and is rotatable about a longitudinal axis relative to the rack.

11. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 8 wherein the first arm is connected to rack at a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack, said housing having an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and at least temporarily fixating the housing at the desired location.

12. (Currently Amended) A surgical retractor comprising:
a laterally extending rack having a proximal and distal portion;
a first arm connected to the rack at a first location and extending longitudinally from the first location to an end;
a moveable second arm having a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack, said second arm extending longitudinally from the housing to an end; said housing having an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and at least temporary fixating the housing at the desired location;
at least one of the first and second arms rotatable about a longitudinal axis relative to the rack; and
at least one of the first and second arms further comprises a first, second and third segment with the second segment hinged intermediate to the first and third segment, and said second segment extending laterally by a lateral offset toward the other of the first and second arms thereby laterally displacing the third segment relative to the first segment toward the other of the first and second arms by the lateral offset, and wherein the middle hinged segment and the third segment are capable of rotating about a respective first and second axis while the third segment remains laterally offset from the middle hinged segment.

13. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 12 wherein the at least one of the first and second arms further comprises a locking lever for selectively securing the one of the first and second arms in a fixed rotational position relative to the rack.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 12 wherein the rack is domed intermediate the first location and the desired location.

17. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 12 wherein the at least one of the first and second arms is the second arm and the second arm further comprises at least a first segment connected to the housing with said first segment rotatable relative to the housing.

18. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 12 wherein the at least one of the first and second arms is the first arm and the first arm further comprises at least a first segment extending longitudinally of the first location and the first segment rotatable relative to the first location.

19. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 17 wherein the second arm further comprises a locking mechanism selectively securing the first segment relative to the housing fixing an angle of rotation of the first segment relative to the housing.

20. (Original) The surgical retractor of claim 18 wherein the first arm further comprises a locking mechanism selectively securing the first segment relative to the first location fixing an angle of rotation of the first segment relative to the housing.